

The Paducah Sun

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JIM SPRIGGS

TESTIFIES

Told How He Killed His Sweetheart, Mamie Rogers.

Claims It Was an Accident—Case Will Be Finished Tomorrow Afternoon.

NEWS IN THE OTHER COURTS

CIRCUIT COURT.

The Spriggs case is still on trial at the circuit court. This morning the commonwealth closed. Spriggs was placed on the stand, and claimed that he killed the girl accidentally, and the pistol that did the work was produced in the court. It is a .38-caliber Smith & Wesson make, with a fine pearl handle and a safety attachment on the handle. The weapon is also hammerless. The safety attachment is made to insure safety in handling, and it can hardly be pressed and discharged unless the hand is in the proper position. Spriggs claims that he had his forefingers in the guard of the trigger, swinging the pistol about, his fingers acting as a pivot, when it was discharged. This seems to be an impossibility. The case will probably not be finished before tomorrow afternoon.

The following indictments were returned by the grand jury this morning shortly before noon. It was its first report this term, and all the accused are in jail with the exception of James Taylor, who is out on bond. Fannie Wilson, Gus Burgois, alias Gus Smith, and Ed Jones, who were held over from the police court for stealing \$256 from H. L. Peterson, of Central City. The accused are alleged to have robbed Peterson while he was asleep and under the influence of liquor in a court street resort.

Bad Anderson, for wilfully and maliciously shooting at Ross Anderson. Oscar Ross, alias Chas. Rhodes, the "Fiddler," as he is dubbed, for stealing from J. W. Troutman, a huckster of the county, \$25.

James Taylor, for obtaining money by false pretenses. He is accused of having taken a mule that did not belong to him and selling it for \$5.

SUIT OVER A HORSE.

Barbara Weiland filed a suit against Wm. Weiland this morning in circuit court to recover possession of a horse valued at \$60, and also \$50 damages. She states that the horse is her property, and that the defendant has held it for some time. She wants either the horse or the value, and \$50 damages.

In the case of R. H. Harper against Sarah Harper, F. A. Lucas, attorney for the defendant, filed his report and was allowed \$5 for his services.

In the case of J. W. Fuls against A. G. English, it was ordered that A. Y. Martin be appointed the guardian ad litem for the following minors: Fred, Horace, Claude, Gussie, Davis, Inez and Jessie English.

In the case of Susan Lambdin against Peter Travis and others, a judgment for the possession of land was filed in favor of the plaintiff.

COUNTY COURT.

Chas. Leech, colored, of the city, aged 32, and Dona Whittemore, of the city, aged 21, were licensed to wed yesterday afternoon late. It will be the first marriage of the bride and the second of the groom.

J. S. Troutman was this morning appointed the guardian of Gerchal and Troutman Sexton.

Mrs. Martha Reed was this morning ruled to produce a new bond as guardian of Gertha Reed, her first bond having lately died.

In the case of J. T. Galloway against Mrs. Fannie Kahn for \$150 damages because of leaks that had been allowed to remain in the room, of a house belonging to the defendant which the plaintiff occupied, a judgment was rendered in Judge Emery's court in favor of the defendant.

T. J. Morgan deeds to C. Gilliam for \$200, property in the county.

Hattie Leigh deeds to Cicero Gillen, for \$300, property in the county.

F. W. Robertson and wife deed to Mrs. L. Friedman, for \$1250 property at Eleventh and Madison streets.

NO CHARITY

FUND NOW

The City Is This Year Unable to Assist the Poor of Paducah.

There Is No Fund and the City Is Without Money—Ladies May Assist.

OTHER NEWS OF GENERAL INTEREST

Mayor D. A. Yeiser this morning stated that the calls for assistance from destitute people were as numerous as ever, which is to say that there are many of them. This year, however, there is no money in the treasury with which to dispense charity, and someone will have to suffer unless the various benevolent organizations take up the work and collect money in some manner for carrying it out. Charity balls, entertainments and other ways might be devised, and a liberal patronage from the public would doubtless result in the accumulation of sufficient funds to relieve much of the suffering incident to the cold winter months.

The evidences of destitution have been marked enough already, despite the fact that there has yet been no cold weather. It is suggested by Mayor Yeiser that the proper department of the Civic Federation take up the work and aid the city in taking care of the poor and needy. The coal that is donated by Bernheim Bros. helps some, but it is claimed that much of it goes to unworthy persons, mostly colored, and leaves little for the deserving white, among whom are many too proud to ask for alms or aid. It is probable that as soon as this state of affairs becomes known the ladies will not be slow to respond.

Attorney Given of Henderson has written to ascertain how many police officers there are in Paducah, and what salary is paid them. He was informed by the city clerk that there were 22, and they are paid \$60 a month. There is a probability of an increase before the new appointments are made.

Marshal James Crow and his deputy, Mr. Will Crow, are rapidly getting on to things about the city hall, while Marshal Collins is engaged in looking after the fines that were levied during his term and not yet paid. He is enjoying something of a vacation before he gets a new job on the police force.

Speaking of Marshal Crow, a good joke is told on him. A small clock adorns his desk, and the other day some practical joker set the alarm, and when it went off the marshal was sitting within a few feet of it. He jumped up and ran to the telephone in another office, thinking the alarm was the telephone bell.

Mr. L. A. Washington, now with the Gulf and Ship Island road, but formerly chief constructing engineer of the Illinois Central on the Louisville division, has applied for the position of city engineer of Paducah. As stated in The Sun some time ago, it is understood an effort is to be made to increase the salary to \$1,800 a year. This is the reason no city engineer was elected when the other officers were Monday night.

SOCIETY MAN

GOES INTO THE SLAUGHTER HOUSE BUSINESS IN VIRGINIA.

Washington, Dec. 5.—In West Moreland county, Virginia, William Taylor led a party to the house of Herbert Marks to avenge the insult on Taylor's sister by Marks. The latter opened fire on the marauders, killing Taylor, William Heflin, James Stiff and wounding a fourth. Marks surrendered here. All are wealthy farmers, and Marks is a New York society man who has a winter home in Virginia.

Washington, Dec. 5.—A big crowd in the Senate heard McComas inaugurate the discussion on suppressing anarchy.

BRITISH STEAMER LOST.

The Nelson Turned Over In a Gale on the Pacific Coast.

Astoria, Ore., Dec. 5.—The bar tug Tatoosh, which has just returned to port reports that the British ship Nelson, an old wooden vessel, lumberladen and commanded by Capt. Perriam, turned turtle last night and went to the bottom with her entire crew of twenty-eight men in the fiercest part of the gale which swept the coast. The Nelson left Astoria November 25. Monday night she was back at the river's mouth and yesterday was reported to have shifted her cargo. She had a bad list to starboard and could go on only one tack. Yesterday the tug Tatoosh went out and picked up the Nelson, passing a hawser. The tug started off to shore with the ship owing to the gale. It

was the intention of Captain Bailey of the Tatoosh to remain with the ship during the night. The gale that raged last night was too severe for the vessel to withstand and she broke from the tug and then turned turtle, sinking at once. In the darkness it was impossible for the tug to render assistance to the members of the crew and all perished.

Following is a partial list of the crew: Captain, Perriam; first mate, W. A. Strickland; second mate, J. J. Tisley; steward, Vickmans, M. Peterson, Larsh Peterson, D. Beste, A. Johansen, J. Jensen, F. Larson, J. Turt, John Mealey, St. John N. B.; J. Erickson, J. Darch, E. Sheehan, Quisenberry. Apprentices: W. Terry, J. Beste.

CORONER'S JURY.

It Finally Determined That Jake Fulzer Was Dead.

Held Another Session Today and Adjourned—Given to the Grand Jury.

Justice Sheehan, who was called to hold an inquest over the remains of Jake Fulzer, alias Jack Johnson, who was killed on South Second street by Will Hamilton, adjourned sine die this morning, after having held three sessions in as many days. The only verdict reached by the jury was that Fulzer, alias Johnson, died from a knife wound inflicted by William Hamilton. It did not undertake to place the blame and the grand jury now has the case.

On the jury were: John Bulger, Pete Eich, W. B. Padgett, Clem Nance, George Peck, and Bob Moss. There was considerable evidence in favor of Hamilton. Judge Sanners turned the case over to the grand jury this morning when it was called in the police court.

Johnson's remains will be buried in Potter's field this afternoon. Should his relatives in Terre Haute desire to move them they can do it at some future time.

ARRESTED IN MAYFIELD.

Mayfield, Dec. 5.—Earl Washburn, son of a well known resident of Mayfield, was arrested at the latter place on a charge of stealing a horse and buggy at Washington, Ind. He consents to return without a requisition and claims he is innocent.

J. A. Bauer and others deed to Luella Magnor and others for \$1050 property in the Trimble and Norton addition to the city.

GOSPEL BOAT.

It Is a Big Affair, and Will Come This Way.

It Is a Home For Nearly One Hundred People—Will Be Here Next Spring.

Captain Crider, of the Richardson, reports one of the biggest marine curiosities in the country at Cairo. It arrived yesterday from near Rock Island, Ill., and its name is the Megiddo. It is a "gospel boat," about 190x130 feet, and is a home for 93 people belonging to the Christian Brothers faith. A rich farmer took a notion to start a boat of the kind and this one was built, costing in the neighborhood of \$20,000. The families residing on it were all well-to-do, many of them wealthy, from Illinois and Iowa, and abandoned their homes to engage in the work now undertaken.

The big craft reached Cairo yesterday and will be fitted up a short distance below there, and then start down the Mississippi on a cruise to last several months. The gentleman in charge said he would then return and make a trip up the Ohio coming as far as Paducah, and arriving here in the spring.

THE WEATHER.

Snow or rain and warmer tonight. Friday, rain or snow.

M. P. and H. M. Futrell deeds to J. W. and Lucella Magnor, for \$850 property in the Norton addition.

E. Norton deeds to Henry Alcock for \$250 property in the county.

—Mrs. Mary Thompson, of Eleventh and Madison streets, is very ill.

DROWNED

NEAR MANILA

Will and John Matlock, Who Enlisted Here, Find Watery Graves.

A Squall Turned Over Their Boat and They Were Drowned—Lived at Bandana.

RELATIVES HERE RECEIVE THE NEWS

News reached the city today of the death, by drowning, of Will and John Matlock, formerly of the city. The boys lived in Bandana, Ballard county, the greater part of their lives, but had been residing in this city prior to their enlistment into the volunteer army for services in the Philippines. The boys joined the army one year ago and left Paducah several days after enlisting. They were taken to Louisville and from there west for service in the Philippines.

A telegram from an officer in the company of which they were members was received by the boys' father in Bandana yesterday saying that his sons had been drowned while crossing from Manila to an island nearby in a squall which wrecked the ship. No other particulars were received of the disaster but the bodies will be probably brought to the city if found and buried in the family graveyard in Ballard county.

Mr. J. B. Matlock, of the Bauer pottery, is a cousin of the two young men and Mr. Dell Matlock, clerk at the Leisner grocery, Sixth and Trimble streets, is a brother. The drowning happened on Monday.

RURAL DELIVERY.

CONGRESSMAN WHEELER RECOMMENDS IT FOR HICKMAN.

A Washington dispatch says: The postoffice department announces that rural free delivery will be established on the recommendation of Representative Wheeler in Hickman county, starting from Fulton February 1. The length of the route is twenty-three and one-half miles; the area covered twenty-four square miles; the population served 637, and the number of houses on the route is 141. Henry McMillin is to be appointed carrier.

WAS ACQUITTED.

A MAN CLEARED OF AN OLD CHARGE OF MURDER.

Richmond, Ky., Dec. 5.—Mr. A. L. Kirby, who came here from San Francisco and surrendered for the murder of John Graves twelve years ago, was acquitted at his trial this morning.

WENT SKYWARD.

CORN AND WHEAT WENT UP TODAY.

Chicago, Dec. 5.—There has been one of the heaviest tradings in years. Grains went skyward in the market today. May wheat reached 81 and corn broke the season's record, also, at 76 cents.

May wheat smashed all records selling at 80 7-8, and May corn reaching 76 1-2, trading was as enormous as in the days of Old Hutch.

OLD FIDDLERS

AT MADISONVILLE.

Madisonville is to have an old fiddlers' contest on December 13. These contests have been held at Hopkinsville, Owensboro, Guthrie, Russellville, Paducah and many other places and people have gone wild with fun everywhere.

FATHER OF 23 CHILDREN.

Jackson, Ky., Dec. 5.—James Fletcher, who lives on Twin Creek, in this county, is the father of twenty-two children, the last two of which are named, respectively, Twenty-one and Twenty-two.

Money'll make the mare go, an' the jackass, too.

MORE FACTS

ABOUT MURDER

Develops That Governor Had Been Asked to Offer a Reward.

Mr. Lyons, the Dead Man's Cousin, Left the City Today—Divulged Nothing.

INTERESTING RUMORS IN THE CASE

Mr. J. O. Lyons, of Louisville, whose visit to the city yesterday to investigate the death of his cousin, Mr. Stanley P. Lyons, whose supposed suicide occurred at the New Richmond hotel on January 20, 1899, left today.

Mr. Lyons learned much of an interesting character, but did not divulge what step he will take, if any, to further ferret out the mystery.

There are many, especially those about the hotel, who do not credit the rumors of murder, but it was learned after The Sun's account yesterday of the case, that there had been rumors of a murder almost ever since the death of the young man.

Mr. W. L. Walker, the electrician, and a brother-in-law of Charles Sexton, the bartender, who snigled by jumping in the river because, it is alleged, what he knew, or imagined, about the case drove him insane, arrived in the city last night from Brooklyn, and corroborated what was said in regard to Sexton's claim of knowing that the man was murdered. Sexton had often told the story of the crime as recounted yesterday, and always told it the same way.

Another interesting bit of history connected with the case is that an effort was made to have the governor offer a reward for the apprehension of the murderers soon after the tragedy, but without success.

It is said that another effort was made recently to have Gov. Beckham to offer a reward. It appears that none of those who profess to know anything about it are willing to reveal anything until a reward is offered.

A well known local detective had heard the rumors in the case some time ago, and had himself done some work on it, and it is probable that if a reward is offered, will be able to tell something.

There are several peculiar things about the death of young Lyon, but the most peculiar is why he killed himself so suddenly after writing a letter to his mother, telling her that he would send her some money in a few days, and where he was going from Paducah. The letter was addressed and stamped, and sealed, and he probably wrote it the last thing before retiring, intending to mail it the next morning.

If he was murdered, the most inexplicable thing is how the murderers got into the room. The door was locked from the inside. The room is in the third story, and while it has a window facing First street there is no way to reach it except by ladder or rope. The transom is large enough to admit a person. There was nothing about the room when the body was found indicating that there had been any one there except the occupant himself.

The chambermaid who remembered hearing what was supposed to have been a pistol shot about 8 o'clock that morning may have imagined it. If the noise had been loud enough, or resembled a pistol shot closely enough to obviate mistake, the body would have been found then, instead of four hours later. If it was really the shot that ended his life, however, it could hardly have been murder.

There is at least a great deal of mystery about the case, and it may be some of it will be cleared away.

INDICTMENTS AT MAYFIELD.

Mayfield, Ky., Dec. 5.—The grand jury has adjourned after being in session three weeks and three days, during which time they found and returned into court 170 bills. There were no indictments for any serious offenses. Over one hundred were for violating the whiskey laws.

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